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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Greece/Turkey

DATE DISTR. 13 Dec. 1951

SUBJECT Potential Big Arms Deal
Allegedly for Turkey Revealed

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. A routine exit examination at Corfu of all passenger luggage on a steamer going from Piraeus to Italy produced papers connecting one of the passengers, Christos Savides, with a big potential arms deal.
2. The arms in question were given as 100,000 Enfield rifles, type 17, caliber 30.06, each with bayonet and scabbard, as well as 1,000 rounds of ammunition per gun. The guns, described as new, with test certificates dated 1943-45 from the U. S. Army, were to be packed ten in a box, in grease, "according to U. S. Army specifications," and were said to be stored in "a central Mediterranean port." The weight was noted as being 195-200 pounds per box of rifles, and 80-95 pounds per 1,000 rounds of ammunition. According to the papers found, the deal was to be on the basis of a 30-day irrevocable letter of credit, at \$110.00 per rifle and 1,000 rounds ammunition, with 5 percent as agent commission and 1 percent cash deposit to guarantee performance.
3. Savides, who described himself as secretary to the Economic Counsellor of the Turkish Embassy in Athens, and who produced a special identity card usually issued to employees of foreign missions in Greece, stated that the guns belonged to Bodossakis-Athanasiades, Greek armunitions and arms magnate, and that he (Savides) was looking into the possibility of buying the guns on behalf of the Turkish Government.
4. Having produced satisfactory identification, Savides was permitted to proceed on his way to Italy, and thence to France.

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